

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 17. Since the amendment to this claim does not require *any* further search or consideration, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by McNabb *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,289,462; hereinafter “McNabb”). For *at least* the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1-4 and 7

Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 is patentable over McNabb. For example, claim 1 recites a method for retrieving data from classified table elements having a data processing system. The data processing system comprises a database, and the database comprises the classified table elements stored on a computer-readable medium. The data processing system is coupled to a classification engine adapted to provide indicators of approval or non-approval to permit, for a request associated with a requester, access to contents of the classified table elements. The method comprises *receiving the request, from the requestor, to access the contents of the classified table elements*. For each classified table element, *the classification engine is asked to provide an indication of whether the requestor associated with the request is to be permitted access to the contents of the respective classified table element*.

The Examiner contends that McNabb, in figure 9 and the description thereto (col. 14, lines 19-26), along with portions of cols. 8, 15, and 18 discloses these features. Applicants respectfully disagree.

McNabb is directed to a system for providing a trusted server as an intermediary between a web server and a back-end database server. The trusted server controls access to the execution of processes on the database server by modifying requests received from a web-server. The trusted server then sends the modified requests to the database server (*See* McNabb: Abstract, col. 10, lines 26-59). The Examiner alleges that the security gate 504 in figure 9 of McNabb, which is part of the trusted server, corresponds to the classification engine of the present application (*See* Office Action: page 2). However, Applicants respectfully submit that nowhere in the access control method described in McNabb is it disclosed or suggested that the security gate 504 is asked to provide an indication of whether the requestor associated with the request is to be permitted access to the contents of the respective classified table element.

For instance, McNabb states the following in regards to its procedure for processing an incoming request:

“the trusted server does not allow the applications to connect directly to the network services of the machine...In this manner, *labels, privileges and authorizations may be determined and applied prior to routing the communications to a preferred destination path or to a network service component*” (McNabb, col. 13, lines 14-22, emphasis added).

Therefore, when a web server 500 initiates a request 502, the security gate 504 of the trusted server receives the request and performs *authorization processing* on the request, and *then* sends the modified requests to the database server 510 for accessing the data (McNabb,

figure 9, col. 10, lines 31-43, col. 14, lines 24-33). McNabb neither discloses nor suggests any step of “*asking*” the security gate 504, or the trusted server in which it resides, “*to provide an indication* of whether the requestor associated with the request is to be permitted access to the contents of the respective classified table element” as set forth in claim 1.

In the Response to Arguments section on pages 6-7, the Examiner states that “[f]igure 11 clearly shows that each file is evaluated in order to determine if the person accessing it has an access to it...Furthermore column 14, lines 49-67 also clearly describe how tags are used to determine either the access should be granted or not”. Applicants respectfully submit that the operations of figure 11 merely illustrate the authorization processing of McNabb discussed above. To the extent that McNabb is directed to an access control method for incoming requests, McNabb does not disclose or suggest that the security gate 504 is *asked* to provide an indication of whether the requestor associated with the request is to be permitted access to the contents of the respective classified table element.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 is patentable over McNabb and request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection.

Claims 2-4 and 7

Since claims 2-4 and 7 depend on claim 1 which has been shown to contain patentable subject matter above, Applicants respectfully submit claims 2-4 and 7 are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 9

Claim 9 recites a data processing system having a database, wherein the database comprises classified table elements stored on a computer-readable medium. The data processing system is coupled to a classification engine adapted to provide indicators of approval or non-approval to permit, for a request associated with a requestor, access to contents of the classified table elements. The data processing system comprises one or more modules programmed to perform the steps of *receiving the request*, from the requester, to access the contents of the classified table elements. For each classified table element, the data processing system *asks the classification engine to provide an indication* of whether the requestor associated with the request is to be permitted access to the contents of the respective classified table element. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is patentable over McNabb for *at least* reasons analogous to those given above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 10-12 and 15

Since claims 10-12 and 15 depend on claim 9 which has been shown to contain patentable subject matter above, Applicants respectfully submit claims 10-12 and 15 are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 17

Claim 17 recites a computer-readable storage medium storing a program. The program causes a data processing system comprising a database to implement functions of retrieving data from classified table elements. The functions comprise *receiving the request*, from the requestor, to access the contents of the classified table elements. For each classified table element, *the*

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classification engine is asked to provide an indication of whether the requestor associated with the request is to be permitted access to the contents of the respective classified table element.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is patentable over McNabb for *at least* reasons analogous to those given above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 18-20 and 23

Since claims 18-20 and 23 depend on claim 17 which has been shown to contain patentable subject matter above, Applicants respectfully submit claims 18-20 and 23 are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 6, 13, 14, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNabb and Tashenberg (U.S. Pub. 2001/0034711).

Claims 8, 16 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNabb and Hepworth (U.S. Pub. 2006/0032920).

Claims 5-6

Since claims 5-6 depend on claim 1, and since Tashenberg does not cure the deficient teachings of McNabb with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit claims 5-6 are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 8

Since claim 8 depends on claim 1, and since Hepworth does not cure the deficient teachings of McNabb with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit claim 8 is patentable *at least* by virtue of its dependency.

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Claims 13-14

Since claims 13-14 depend on claim 9, and since Tashenberg does not cure the deficient teachings of McNabb with respect to claim 9, Applicants respectfully submit claims 13-14 are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 16

Since claim 16 depends on claim 9, and since Hepworth does not cure the deficient teachings of McNabb with respect to claim 9, Applicants respectfully submit claim 16 is patentable *at least* by virtue of its dependency.

Claims 21-22

Since claims 21-22 depend on claim 17, and since Tashenberg does not cure the deficient teachings of McNabb with respect to claim 17, Applicants respectfully submit claims 21-22 are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 24

Since claim 24 depends on claim 17, and since Hepworth does not cure the deficient teachings of McNabb with respect to claim 17, Applicants respectfully submit claim 24 is patentable *at least* by virtue of its dependency.

Conclusion

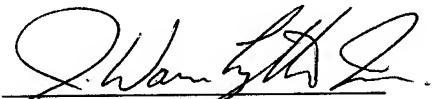
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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